

From: Michel van der Kleij
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 7:22am
Subject: Microsoft Antitrust Settlement

Dear Sir, Madam,

I've been trying to keep up with the Microsoft Courcase proceedings as much as possible. The latest news immediately made me feel I ought to share my opinions with you.

I feel it that Microsoft is being given the opportunity to make free advertisement for its products by having to "help" schools across the US. Think about it: the products themselves cost next to nothing to produce (price of a CD), millions of kids will learn how to use (inferior) software provided by a "benavolent" company and what are a few thousand PCs to a rich company like Microsoft. So, this is NOT punishment, I call that a firm endorsement!

Instead, I think Microsoft should be made to cough up for the hardware, BUT Open Source software should be provided along with it!

The reason for this is not only that this is more of a "punishment" for a proven monopolist, but rather that kids learn how to use technically superior software from which MUCH more knowledge can be gained, thereby really helping the kids on their way!

Take it from a 20-year long IT professional with lots of experience in the Microsoft realm: Open Source software is much better quality, much better value and much more innovative than what Microsoft is pushing us so hard to use.

Kind regards,

Michel J.L. van der Kleij.

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Linux kernel 2.4.2 - Red Hat 7.1